

Legislative Council if we so chose to use that. As you know, right now we have two members that are officing in meeting rooms, we have six members that double up in space presently. What we need is space for five additional offices. Those meetings rooms were very necessary when the Capitol Renovation Plan was put in place a number of years ago, they were designated because they were very much needed. We need to move forward and finish what was started a number of years ago. We need to basically find five offices, five suites of offices for those members who currently do not have separate space which is very much needed. It is not so much that it's needed for the individuals as much as it is for their constituents. I've heard from a number of members who come and, unlike the Bar Association, they are not recalcitrant, they're just downright irritated with me for the fact that I haven't been able to get them the proper space that they need to do their job. They have constituents that come down here that meet with them and they don't have adequate space in which to meet with them. Now that we've taken up meeting rooms in order to provide for the space necessary to allow for individuals to have an office, they don't even have the meeting rooms, and they have been holding meetings in hearing rooms with constituents, hearing rooms have become meeting rooms and we have had virtually a backlog with regard to the kind of space that is allowed or necessary needed within the Legislative Council for purposes of conducting our business. This is not an attempt to say that the other branches of government don't deserve the amount of space necessary to do their work as well, that's very much true. They'll continue to enjoy that space that they have. I passed out to you earlier this morning responses to a letter from Department of Administrative Services from the various constitutional officers. The responses were handled differently, depending on who the individual was. And you can read and interpret those yourself. My purpose is merely to allow for the Legislative Council, Legislative Executive Board, legislative branch of government to have the ability to acquire this space necessary that we haven't been able to acquire through negotiations with regard to the Department of Administrative Services. And this is not to cast aspersions on anyone over there. They have some of the same problems, but I believe that with the adoption of this amendment what we will have is the ability to expedite that process, if you will, and the Legislative Council will serve as a catalyst through the Executive Board in doing that. I would urge adoption of this amendment and would be willing to respond to any questions that members may have. Thank you,